

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 09556 232142Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08

LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 /089 W

-----096704 232156Z /63

O 232102Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7277

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 9556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PGOV, CI

SUBJECT: MORE ON BANISHED UNION LEADERS

REF: SANTIAGO 9532 (NOTAL)

1. THE GOC ANNOUNCED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE TWO UNION LEADERS DETAINED BY THE GOC (HECTOR CUEVAS PRESIDENT OF COMMUNIST LED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION AND JUAN MANUAL SEPULVEDA, PRESIDENT OF UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF FENSA MADEMSA, A "DINAMICO") AUTHORITIES ARE SEEKING JUAN FINCHEIRA PRESIDENT, EL TENIENTE EMPLOYEES UNION RANCAGUA, MILTON PUGA, SECRETARY AND CARLOS ARELLANO TREASURER OF THE SAME UNION. THEY ARE TO BE BANISHED TO NORTHERN CHILE.

2. CARLOS FREZ, PRESIDENT OF PORT WORKERS UNION, AND ARTURO LATUZ, TREASURER EL TENIENTE COPPER SMELTER UNION WERE ALSO ORDERED DETAINED BUT BOTH ARE ATTENDING THE LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS CENTRAL (CLAT) MEETING IN COSTA RICA.

3. FINCHEIRA, PUGA AND ARELLANO WERE ALL INVOLVED IN
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 09556 232142Z

SUPPORTING THE WORK STOPPAGE IN EL TENIENTE NOVEMBER 2. THEY ARE ALSO OFFICERS OF UNIONS OF ILO LABOR DELEGATE GUILLERMO MEDINA. THESE THREE ARE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION LEADERS AND HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE AFL-CIO AND THE US EMBASSY IN THE RECENT PAST.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN AN

ACCURATE READING ON WHY PINOCHET DECIDED TO CRACK DOWN AT THIS TIME ON TRADE UNION LEADERS. PRESUMABLY CUEVAS IS INCLUDED IN THE ROUND-UP BECAUSE HE IS A COMMUNIST, THE ONLY COMMUNIST AMONG THE SEVEN. FREZ PROBABLY WAS FINGERED BECAUSE OF HIS ORGANIZED SLOW DOWN OF DOCK WORKERS TO PRESS FOR HIGHTER WAGES.

5. LATUZ, FINCHEIRA, ARELLANO AND PUGA WERE ALL INVOLVED IN THE NOVEMBER 2 COPPER WORK STOPPAGE. WE HAVE A SWORN STATEMENT CIRCULATED BY LATUZ DESCRIBING HOW SECURITY SERVICES INTIMIDATED HIM. ACCORDING TO THE DEPOSITION, AGENTS PICKED UP LATUZ WITHOUT WARRANT, PLACED HIM IN ANOTHER VEHICLE BLINDFOLDED, SLAPPED HIM DURING TWO BRIEF INTERROGATION PERIODS AND INTIMATED THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD SUFFER SHOULD HE COMPLAIN.

6. SEPULVEDA IS A MEMBER OF THE "GROUP OF TEN." A STRONG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, HE IS THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED METALURICAL FEDERATION. THERE IS NO OBVIOUS REASON WHY HE IS INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP.
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